

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/676,734

Examiner

James L Habermehl

Applicant(s)

BRAUNSTEIN ET AL.

Art Unit

2651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed 30 Sep 03 and 5 Feb 04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>5 Feb 04</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers filed 30 September 2003 and 5 February 2004, which papers have been placed of record in the file.

2. Claims 1-17 are allowed over the prior art of record. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 10 are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited references taken individually or in combination fails to particularly disclose a method of measuring an air-bearing separating a rotatable surface and a flyable component comprising applying a deformable material having a height greater than the anticipated fly height to the surface over an area being small compared to the area without deformable material applied, impacting a selected portion of the material with a flying slider and measuring the reduced height of the selected portion of material, as presented in the environment of claims 1 and 10. It is noted that the closest prior art, Baumgart et al., shows a method of measuring fly height similar to the claimed invention. However, Baumgart et al. fails to disclose applying a deformable material having a height greater than the anticipated fly height to the surface over an area being small compared to the area without deformable material applied, impacting a selected portion of the material with a flying slider and measuring the reduced height of the selected portion of material as claimed.

Claim 15 is allowable over the prior art of record since the cited references taken individually or in combination fails to particularly disclose a method of measuring a fly-height of a slider comprising applying a dot of viscoelastic material to a disk surface, rotating the disk to form a trail of viscoelastic material having a height greater than the slider's anticipated fly height, impacting a selected segment of the material with a flying slider and measuring the reduced

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height of the selected segment of material, as presented in the environment of claim 15. It is noted that the closest prior art, Baumgart et al., shows a method of measuring fly height similar to the claimed invention. However, Baumgart et al. fails to disclose applying a dot of viscoelastic material to a disk surface, rotating the disk to form a trail of viscoelastic material having a height greater than the slider's anticipated fly height, impacting a selected segment of the material with a flying slider and measuring the reduced height of the selected segment of material as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Baumgart et al. Figures 4-6, Suzuki ('677) Figures 1A-3, Suzuki ('118) Figures 1A-3, Ayabe Figures 1A-3, Womack et al. Figures 2-3, Schaff Figures 2-3, Xuan et al. Figure 1, and Tokizono et al. Figures 2-6 show using calibration protrusions similar to applicant's invention.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James L Habermehl whose telephone number is (703)272-7556. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on (703)272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Habermehl/jlh
13 Mar 05



DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600